



# **AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Annual Report  
1991-92**



**AUSTRALIAN  
STATISTICS  
ADVISORY  
COUNCIL**

**Annual Report**

**1991-92**

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The Honourable John Dawkins, M.P.  
Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia

I have pleasure in submitting the Report of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council for the year ended 30 June 1992.

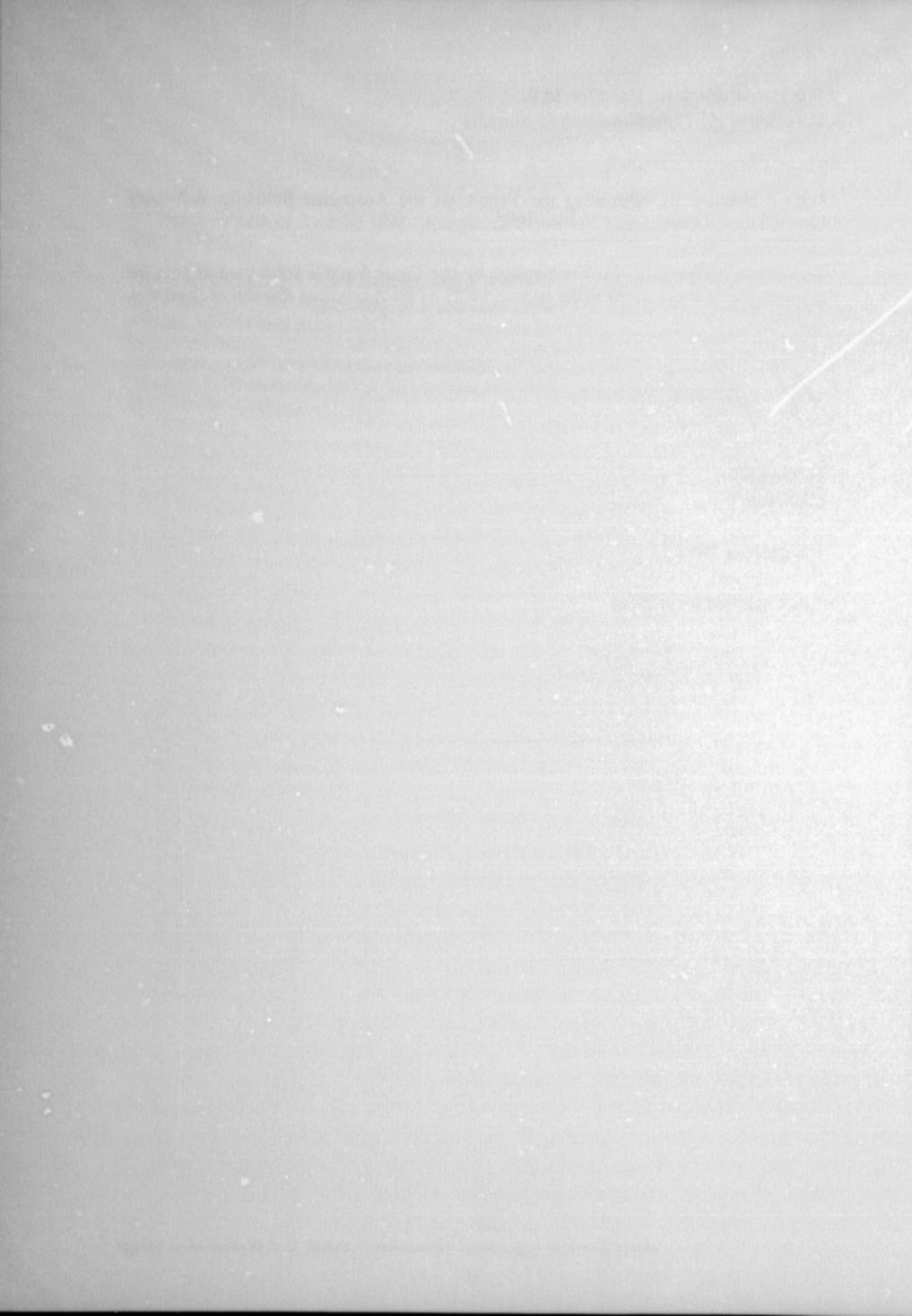
The Report outlines the work undertaken by the Council and is submitted to you for presentation to Parliament under section 24(2) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

*N. Oakes*

N. OAKES  
*Chairman*

3 September 1992 \*

\* *date approved for printing*



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**MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL, 30 JUNE 1992**Date first  
appointed

Mr Norman Oakes, AO	Chairman	14.1.77
Mr Ian Castles, AO, OBE	Australian Statistician (ex officio)	
Mr Geoff Allen	Chairman, The Allen Consulting Group Pty Ltd	14.1.80(a)
Mrs Yvonne Bain, AM	President, National Council of Women of Australia	14.1.80
Mr Grant Belchamber	Senior Research Officer, Australian Council of Trade Unions	1.3.88(b)
Dr Lisa Brodribb, AM	Managing Director, M. Brodribb Pty Ltd	14.1.77
Ms Rebekah Burton	Senior Manager, Business Information Services, Tasmanian Development Authority	1.5.91
Dr Neil Conn	Under Treasurer, The Treasury, Northern Territory	1.11.81(c)
Mr Ken Foreman, AM	Consulting Statistician	1.3.91
Mr John Fraser	Deputy Secretary (Economic) Department of the Treasury	1.6.90
Mr Ross Holt	Assistant Under Treasurer Economic Policy and Services, Department of the Treasury, Western Australia	1.3.88
Dr Neil Johnston	Deputy Secretary, Department of Employment, Education and Training	17.3.89

Prof Peter Karmel, AC, CBE	Former Chairman, Australian Institute of Health	1.7.88
Mr Steven Kates	Chief Economist, Confederation of Australian Industry	1.9.91
Mr John Macleod	Group Economist, CRA Ltd	17.3.83
Dr Jacqueline Morgan	Executive Member, Privacy Committee of New South Wales	1.2.89
Dr Paul Moy	Assistant Secretary, New South Wales Treasury	16.7.90
Prof Max Neutze	Director, Institute of Advanced Studies, Australian National University	4.6.86
Dr Alfred Smith	Director, Resources and Development Division, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Victoria	17.3.86
Mr David Smith	Director, Statistical Services, Government Statistician's Office, Queensland	1.6.89
Mr David Stanton	First Assistant Secretary Evaluation and Services Division, Department of Social Security	1.11.81(d)
Mr Michael Tooth, AM	Former President, NSW Farmers' Association	1.9.89
Ms Carol Treloar	Director, Intergovernment Relations, Office of Cabinet and Government Management, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia	1.9.91

- (a) Did not serve on Council between May 1983 and July 1990
- (b) Did not serve on Council between March and September 1991
- (c) Did not serve on Council between June 1983 and February 1987
- (d) Did not serve on Council between February 1988 and June 1990

## Changes in membership since 30 June 1991

September 1991

Mr S.I. Kates appointed.

Mr I.J. Macfarlane retired from Council at the conclusion of his term of appointment, having served on the Council since 1988.

Ms C.L. Treloar appointed to succeed Mr R.G. Schwarz as the South Australian Government representative.

Mr G.D. Belchamber appointed.

April 1992

Dr R. Madden resigned.

Council records with appreciation the contribution made by the retiring members to the work of the Council.

Note: In this Report, after the first reference, the Australian Statistics Advisory Council is referred to as ASAC or the Council, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics as the ABS or the Bureau.

*Freedom of Information Act 1982*

Under section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* Commonwealth agencies are required to publish a statement about their organisation, functions, decision-making powers, consultative arrangements, categories of documents maintained, and facilities and procedures to enable members of the public to obtain access to documents under the Act.

The relevant statement for ASAC appears in Appendix 2 to this Report.

No requests for access to documents under the FOI Act were received by ASAC during the year.



## INTRODUCTION

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

This is the sixteenth Annual Report of the Council, and is made in accordance with section 24(2) of the Act which provides that: 'the Council shall, as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year, prepare and submit to the Minister, for presentation to the Parliament, a report relating to matters connected with the operation of this Act'.

Under section 18(1) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* the Council is to advise the Minister and the Australian Statistician on:

- (a) *the improvement, extension and co-ordination of statistical services provided for public purposes in Australia;*
- (b) *annual and longer term priorities and programs of work that should be adopted in relation to major aspects of the provision of those statistical services; and*
- (c) *any other matters relating generally to those statistical services.*

The Act enables the Minister or the Australian Statistician to seek the advice of the Council on these matters. The Council also offers advice on these matters to the Minister or the Australian Statistician when it considers it appropriate to do so.

The Act provides that the Council shall consist of a part-time Chairman, the Australian Statistician (*ex officio*), and between ten and twenty-two part-time members, including one nominee of each State Premier and the Chief Ministers of the two Territories. The Chairman and members are appointed by the responsible Minister – currently the Treasurer – for periods of five years and up to three years respectively, and are eligible for reappointment.

The Chairman receives an annual fee, set by the Remuneration Tribunal, and members are reimbursed their travel costs, where applicable. Expenditure during 1991-92 was \$52,736 plus an estimated amount of \$30,000 on direct secretariat costs incurred by the ABS in servicing Council. This support mainly involves organising and recording its meetings, administering its membership and preparing its annual report. In addition, ABS officers are involved in the preparation of many of the ASAC agenda papers.

The secretary of the Council is the Director, Secretariat Section, whose address is PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616 – telephone (06)252 5760.

## **SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES**

As in previous years, in 1991-92 Council addressed a wide range of issues relevant to the delivery of an efficient and effective statistical service. Council is aware of international concerns about the deterioration in the quality of important statistical series in some other countries, brought about largely as a result of diminishing budgets. Council is concerned that this should not occur in Australia and will closely monitor the situation. Council considers it vital that the high standing which the Bureau has achieved in a comparison of international statistical organisations is not put in jeopardy because of inadequate resources.

It is pleasing to Council that the Bureau is expanding its already widespread consultation with respondents and user groups. Significant reductions are being achieved in the demands being placed on respondents by the ABS, a matter on which Council places considerable importance. Council also welcomes the priority attention being given to responding to the ever expanding demands for releases in electronic format. Council notes that there have been significant advances in a number of areas, including improvements in the quality of statistical products, in the operating efficiency of a number of collections and in the timeliness of statistical publications.

Council received regular reports on the processing of data from the 1991 Census of Population and Housing and commends the Bureau on the excellent progress made.

Other topics discussed in some detail during the year by Council included the demands which are arising for information on the environment, for better and more accessible social data, and for surveys of business expectations. In each of these cases there are differing views within Council as to the value of the proposals and the priority which should be afforded them. There is a common view, however, on the need for a clear definition to be formulated of the subject matter and for the Bureau's reputation for reliable data and its integrity to be preserved. Council is confident that the ABS's activities continue to be directed to achieving a high-quality and well-balanced statistical service relevant to the needs of government and the community at large.

## **Forward work program 1992-93 to 1994-95**

Council spent a substantial amount of the time available at its November 1991 and April 1992 meetings in consideration of the ABS forward work program for 1992-93 to 1994-95. The Bureau's First Assistant Statisticians attended the meetings and outlined the main features of the programs under their control.

Council was advised that the extensive range of initiatives introduced during 1990-91 and 1991-92 restricted the scope for further initiatives during the following two financial years, given the forward budget allocations. Work on improving current programs will, however, continue. Council supports the initiatives proposed, noting in particular the increased emphasis on the services sector.

As noted in Council's annual report for 1990-91, there has been some criticism about the output from the flow of funds project, and some debate about the worth of the ABS's continuing involvement in the field. The ABS has, however, taken account of the interest of important users in publication of flow of funds and levels of financial assets and liabilities and has decided to proceed to publish these data. In future they will be known as financial accounts statistics because they will include estimates of levels of financial assets and liabilities. Council supports the ABS's decision.

The improvements being made to the commentary and style of ABS publications have been strongly supported by Council. Council also supports the improvements being made in delivering data by electronic means. In particular it noted the success of the CD-ROM product (CDATA 86) which provided an extensive range of 1981 and 1986 population census data. However, some members expressed concern that not all ABS electronic data services are fully meeting the needs of users. Council emphasised the necessity of continued funding to ensure that user requirements are well understood and that appropriate improvements are made to these services.

Council has been aware for some time of the view among State government users of government finance statistics that their needs for this type of information were not being satisfied. Council recognises that three key issues in the field of public finance statistics are uniform presentation of government financial information, a quality improvement review and improving public sector debt statistics. While acknowledging that the ABS has not, until quite recently, been well positioned to respond to the new challenges arising in this field, Council welcomes the May 1991 Premiers' Conference decision on Uniform Presentation of Government Financial Information that the ABS work closely with all Treasuries to improve the timeliness, accuracy and presentation of government finance statistics. Council is aware that limited expertise, both in ABS offices and in some States, might limit the pace at which these improvements can be implemented and endorses the ABS's proposals for upgrading the expertise of the staff involved. Council strongly supports active ABS involvement in this increasingly important field.

Council welcomes the progress being made on the quality improvement review and strongly supports the additional funding directed to the program. The review has highlighted the need for better computing systems and for improvements in the methods used in compiling quarterly public finance statistics. Problems have been experienced in a number of States, especially relating to modifications made to the original data. Council has emphasised the need for close consultation between the ABS and State Treasuries and is confident that the strategies being undertaken by the ABS will result in achievement of the improvements identified at the Premiers' Conference.

Council has discussed the investigation made by the ABS into business expectations surveys. Work to date has concentrated on looking at the performance of existing surveys undertaken by other organisations and assessing what role, if any, the ABS could best perform in the future. Following Council's consideration of the problems and the costs associated with collecting useful data in this area, members have agreed that it is necessary for the ABS to weigh up the costs and benefits and to hold extensive discussions with both users and producers of these statistics. Council has suggested that the ABS adopt a cautious approach in developing techniques for producing more reliable business expectations data, with some members stressing the importance of ensuring that collection forms are completed by the most appropriate people in the selected businesses. Council has endorsed the work undertaken so far and has further suggested an investigation into the feasibility of obtaining this information relatively inexpensively, by including supplementary questions in existing surveys.

The question of whether users of data from the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) and Income Distribution Survey (IDS) would be better served with alternative collection methods, frequencies and data content has been under consideration by the ABS for some time. Council supports a proposal to extend the planned 1993-94 HES to enable a reconciliation of income and expenditure data to be made at household level in order to produce direct estimates of household saving. Council is aware that this will require the collection of additional information on changes to financial assets and liabilities. Council also supports the proposal to cancel the previously planned 1993-94 IDS and to introduce a continuous IDS from 1994-95 with a sample size half that of previous IDSs. Council believes that this will significantly increase the amount and value of data that is available on income distribution and notes that this is expected to cost no more than the previous triennial surveys. Council understands that it will be possible to accumulate data over two and possibly more years to help users overcome some of the deficiencies arising from the smaller sample, particularly when analysing small social groups and small geographic regions. Council was advised that modelling techniques to "age" the data will also be investigated with a view to assisting such analysis.

Council has monitored the progress being made in the field of "well-being" statistics. In discussing proposals for strengthening the ABS to provide a national focus in this field, Council has stressed the need for continuing wide consultation with users. Some members have expressed uncertainty concerning the definition of well-being statistics and have suggested that more work is required to identify the benefits that would accrue to user agencies. Council supports the directions being proposed, acknowledging that the ABS recognises the ambitious nature of the project.

Council queried whether it would be feasible to reduce the frequency of the balance of payments series from monthly to quarterly, with the resources saved directed to the production of a monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI). Council was advised that the marginal cost of producing monthly balance of payments figures is quite small and that moving to a quarterly series would make it more difficult to identify turning points in the economy. On the other hand, the ongoing cost of a move to a monthly

CPI would be well in excess of one million dollars, something which would be difficult to justify in view of the relatively low demand for an increase in CPI frequency.

Council supports the Government's announcement that the ABS will undertake a national survey of aboriginal people. While recognising the complexities associated with the development and conduct of such a survey, Council agrees that it is a worthwhile initiative which will provide valuable social data about Australia's indigenous people.

Council has endorsed both the ongoing and the new components of the ABS work program and is confident that the statistical service provided by the ABS remains well balanced and relevant to the evolving needs of users.

#### **ABS register of businesses**

Council has continued to monitor the improvements being made to the ABS register of businesses to ensure that it provides a high quality framework from which to select businesses for its economic collections. In its consideration of progress on the data quality improvements, Council was informed of a number of changes which had already been implemented and was advised of the impact of the improved register on respondent load and on statistical output.

Council's discussion concentrated on problems associated with the identification and removal of defunct businesses, measures to reduce short term impacts of the changes to the register on statistical series and the use of the register as a statistical data base. Members understand that the main purpose of the improvements is to provide a reliable framework for economic statistics collections and that it would be unrealistic to expect too much too soon of the register as a regional statistical source in its own right. The ABS has to date discouraged its use for such purposes, being very conscious of quality problems associated with particular sectors and with the timing of the updates. However, with further improvements expected to flow from the Australian Taxation Office modernisation program, and the refinement of techniques to ensure confidentiality of any small area data to be derived from the register, Council is confident that the register will become a valuable regional data source for basic information, such as employment by industry.

## Australian and New Zealand standard industrial classification (ANZSIC)

Among the important initiatives put forward for 1992-93 to 1994-95 is the implementation of the new Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). ANZSIC is the product of a fundamental review of the current Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC). ASIC is one of the most important ABS classifications, and is used in a wide range of collections of business and household data, and in compilations such as the national accounts. Consistent with the Closer Economic Relationship Agreement, the review is being undertaken in cooperation with the New Zealand Department of Statistics. The changes are major and reflect both a closer alignment with the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and the shift of emphasis from production to service industries in the economy.

Implementation of the new classification will have a major impact on the ABS register of businesses and on many of its statistical collections. The register records details, including industry code, for some 850,000 businesses.

Council is well aware that the cost of implementing ANZSIC will be substantial and supports the Bureau's case for additional funding for this important work. In the event that funding is not forthcoming, the ABS will be forced to internally fund the implementation at the expense of other projects or undertake it over a longer period. Council considers that the priority for the implementation of ANZSIC should be at the same high level as that given to improving the business register.

In discussing the impact of the new classification on suppliers of data, Council has pointed out that many suppliers may need a long lead-time to adjust to the new codes. It was also necessary to take account of the fact that the changes will have a significant impact on the users of this widely-accepted standard classification system. It will be important to ensure that appropriate links are maintained, at least in the short-term, between the old and new classifications. While Council supports the introduction of ANZSIC as soon as possible, it has emphasised the need for continuing consultation with suppliers and users of data. In this regard, Council is pleased that the Bureau proposes that the classification be introduced for statistical collections no earlier than 1993-94.

## Funding of statistical collections by users

In recent years, Council has discussed at some length the issues relating to the ABS's policy of charging for statistical services and the criteria and strategies being used to seek user funding for statistical collections. A detailed report of Council's deliberations on these topics during 1990-91 appeared in last year's annual report.

At its July 1991 meeting Council considered a paper setting out the factors which the ABS needed to address when determining the priorities of its statistical activities and an approach to charging which was consistent with those factors. Council was appreciative of the paper with several members commenting that it had considerably advanced the debate on this complex topic.

It has been suggested that, when examining priorities, particular attention should be paid to the need or otherwise for retaining existing statistical activities. At the same time, while activities should not be accorded a higher priority simply because they already exist, enhancement of existing collections might frequently deserve higher priority than starting new collections. Council considers that offers made to fund new collections in a subject matter area already well catered for by ABS statistics should be accepted, provided that the new collections were fully funded, would not impose unacceptable burdens on respondents, and that such acceptance would not result in diversion of resources from other higher priority needs.

#### **Environment and natural resource statistics**

During consideration of the ABS forward work program at Council's November 1991 meeting there was some discussion of the role of the ABS in the field of environment statistics and the ABS was asked to prepare a paper reporting on the work of its Environment and Natural Resource Statistics Unit. This paper was considered by Council at its April 1992 meeting.

Council was informed that the Unit had been working towards defining the ABS role in providing environmental information, establishing contact with a wide variety of organisations both within and outside Australia, and keeping abreast of recent initiatives of groups such as the working parties on ecologically sustainable development. Council notes that the compendium publication "Australia's Environment: Issues and Facts" was released by the Bureau on 1 June 1992 to very favourable media coverage and a positive response from users.

Work on environmental indicators will be undertaken in collaboration with other federal and State agencies. It will focus on defining an appropriate set of measures for Australia to provide succinct information that can be readily understood and used by decision makers. Council cautions the ABS to be aware of the significant difficulties associated with defining parameters for this potentially controversial subject, and welcomes the ABS's assurance that it intends to adopt a rigorous and properly balanced approach in presenting environmental data.

A number of collection activities designed to broaden the existing environmental database have already commenced, including:

a household collection in May 1992 on environmental issues;

inclusion of questions in the 1990-91 Manufacturing and Mining Census relating to capital and recurrent expenditure on pollution abatement and control equipment; and

inclusion of questions in the 1991-92 Agricultural Census on fertiliser, pesticide and herbicide use, and in the Agricultural Finance Survey on expenditure on environment protection and rehabilitating degraded land.

Council understands that any substantial ABS role in the field of environment and natural resource statistics will require a considerable increase in resources. However, Council supports the cautious approach being adopted and welcomes the ABS's assurance that it will take every opportunity to benefit from the expertise of other organisations involved in this field.

#### **Consumer price index (CPI)**

During the year the ABS commenced work on a review of the weighting and composition of the CPI, the latest in a series of periodic reviews designed to update regimen item index weights to reflect any changes to expenditure patterns.

The current review is, with one exception, largely restricted to technical matters such as the referencing and linking of the new index to earlier series and the updating of index weights in the light of the 1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey results. The one exception is in respect of the treatment of home ownership costs. In keeping with a commitment made when the ABS announced a change in the measurement of mortgage interest charges in 1989, a thorough review of the present treatment is being conducted during the current periodic CPI review. An international expert on consumer price indexes, Dr Ralph Turvey, assisted with the review.

Council's views were sought on the consultative arrangements proposed for the review. It was considered important that the review committee be broadened to include social as well as economic policy interests, and some members were keen to see direct State Government representation. Council is pleased that the CPI Technical Consultative Committee, established under the chairmanship of Professor Max Neutze, included representatives from the Commonwealth Departments of the Treasury and Social Security in addition to the membership of the Standing Tripartite Committee, the body which previously provided advice on proposed changes to the CPI, but is disappointed that State Governments did not take up the invitation to be represented.

Council suggests that the ABS widely publicises the concepts and methods underlying the CPI, including any changes to the basis of the index made as a result of the review, in order to encourage greater community understanding of the CPI.

At its July 1991 meeting Council considered a special information paper on the report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration on its inquiry into the CPI Efficiency Audit which had been conducted during 1990 by the Auditor-General's Office. The Committee had recommended that the ABS produce several supplementary indexes, including one which excluded tobacco and alcohol, and one which was intended to cater for the needs of special population groups such as pensioners.

Several members of Council have expressed reservations about the production of additional supplementary indexes, referring to the advantage of a single common measure and to possible confusion about the correct measure to use where more than one are available. Council acknowledges that the ABS already produces some useful supplementary indexes, but cautions the Bureau against significantly expanding its existing range. Council suggests that any new supplementary indexes should be conceptually sound, easily understood, inexpensive to construct, and fully consistent with those indexes now compiled.

### **1991 Population census**

During the year Council maintained its keen interest in the progress of the Population Census both during the lead up to Census night and during processing of the forms. Council was very pleased with the success of the collection phase and with the progress being made with the output program.

The public relations campaign proved effective in raising awareness of the Census and encouraging public cooperation. The high level of public cooperation, encouraged by the generally supportive attitude of the media and the good quality of the temporary field staff, contributed largely to the success of the Census.

The Data Processing Centre in Sydney is expected to complete its work close to schedule and within budget. The preliminary phase is complete, with revised population estimates using the census results being released as planned in June 1992. Final census data are being released progressively from July 1992 on a State by State basis. Council was pleased with the success of the Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) technology which enabled census data to be captured in electronic form very efficiently and avoided the work design problems of manual keying of data.

An evaluation conference was held in December 1991 to review experience with the 1991 Census and to begin the long process of preparing for the next census. Council looks forward to contributing to and monitoring all significant phases in the development of plans for the 1996 Census.

### **Statistical issues relating to a changing economy**

At its meeting in July 1991 Council's attention was drawn to several background papers describing different aspects of the state of economic statistics generated by United States federal statistical agencies. Apart from informing Council of the problems being faced in the United States, and giving members an opportunity to draw possible parallels with the situation in Australia, the papers provided a reference point for stimulating discussion on broad, long term statistical priorities when Council came to consider the ABS forward work program.

There are considerable difficulties in comparing the performance of United States statistical agencies and the ABS because of major differences in institutional arrangements and in opportunities for achieving economies of scale. However, it is clear that widespread concern exists about the deterioration in the quality of important statistical series in the United States, brought about largely as a result of diminishing budgets, and Council members are anxious to ensure that this experience is not repeated in Australia.

Council members support the view that it is necessary to build a constituency of influential support for the ABS. Although the ABS is generally reported favourably by economic journalists, it has been suggested that the level of interest in ABS activities shown by influential economists and statisticians in Australia is less than that shown by their counterparts in the activities of the official statistical agencies in some overseas countries.

The theme of statistical issues relating to a changing economy also has been discussed by Council at a technical level in relation to ABS practices in the area of quality adjustment for its price indexes and the ways in which quality and technological changes affect the measurement of productivity and growth.

### **Study papers by council members**

Mr David Smith, the Queensland representative, presented his paper "Effects of the Agricultural Census Output Threshold on Horticultural Statistics" following Council's discussion in March 1991 on Mr Michael Tooth's paper on the use of

agricultural statistics. The emphasis of the paper was on the view held by the Queensland Department of Primary Industry that the imposition of a \$20,000 estimated value of agricultural operations threshold for the agricultural census had the effect of excluding about ten per cent of the production of a number of horticultural crops. The Department was anxious that the coverage of horticultural activity did not deteriorate further by any increase to the threshold in real terms.

In response, it was explained that the agricultural census was not an appropriate collection vehicle to obtain data on small and emerging industries and commodities where under-coverage posed particular problems. The majority of members were not convinced that the threshold caused serious problems, but Council suggested that officers of the Department raise the matter direct with the ABS.

Papers were prepared by Professors Karmel and Neutze on the involvement of the academic community in ABS activities, by Mr Belchamber on the use of statistics by the ACTU, and by the Chairman on the role of Council. These papers are scheduled to be discussed at Council's meeting in July 1992.

### **General**

Council wishes to record its appreciation for the assistance received from the Statistician and his officers in the presentation and comprehensiveness of information provided on the matters considered by Council and the courtesy and efficiency with which secretariat and other services have been made available. The work of Mr Henri Kriegel the former Secretary of Council was specially mentioned. Council also expressed its appreciation of the contribution made to ASAC over a number of years by the former Deputy Australian Statistician, Mr Bill McLennan, AM, who resigned during the year to take up the position of Director of the Central Statistical Office, and Head of the Government Statistical Service of the United Kingdom.

## APPENDIX 1

### MEETINGS OF COUNCIL 1991-92

10 July 1991  
13-14 November 1991  
1 April 1992

### ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

		Meetings attended
Chairman	Mr Norman Oakes, AO	3
Australian Statistician	Mr Ian Castles, AO, OBE	3
<b>State/Territory representatives</b>		
New South Wales	Dr Paul Moy Mr John Diller (a)	1 1
Victoria	Dr Alfred Smith	3
Queensland	Mr David Smith	3
Western Australia	Mr Ross Holt Ms Anne Nolan (a)	2 1
South Australia	Ms Carol Treloar (b)	1
Tasmania	Ms Rebekah Burton	3
Northern Territory	Dr Neil Conn Mr Gary Henry (a)	2 1
Australian Capital Territory	Dr Richard Madden (b) Mr J. Harding (a)	2 1

**Members from Commonwealth  
departments/authorities**

Department of the Treasury	Mr John Fraser Mr John Larum ](a) Mr Gary Potts ](a) Mr Alan Oster(a)	1 1 1 1
Department of Employment Education and Training	Dr Neil Johnston Mr Colin Bannerman (a) Mr Tom Karmel (a)	— 1 2
Department of Social Security	Mr David Stanton Mr John McWilliam (a)	2 1
Australian Institute of Health	Prof. Peter Karmel, AC,CBE	3
Reserve Bank of Australia	Dr Stephen Grenville (a)	1
<b>Other members</b>		
current	Mr Geoff Allen Mrs Yvonne Bain, AM Mr Grant Belchamber (b) Mr Stephen de Rozairo (a) Dr Lissa Brodribb, AM Mr Ken Foreman, AM Mr Steven Kates (b) Mr John Macleod Dr Jacqueline Morgan Prof. Max Neutze Mr Michael Tooth, AM	2 3 — 2 3 2 1 3 3 2 3
retired during year	Mr I.J. Macfarlane Mr R.G. Schwarz	— —

(a) proxy.

(b) member for part year only – see page viii for details on changes in membership since 30 June 1991.

## APPENDIX 2

### **Freedom of Information Statement**

Below is a statement, as required by section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, about the structure of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC) and how members of the public can obtain access to information held by the Council.

#### **Establishment, organisation and functions**

See Introduction to this Report (page 1).

#### **Powers**

As an advisory body, ASAC has no decision-making or other powers directly affecting members of the public. It does not administer any enactments or schemes.

#### **Arrangements for outside participation**

ASAC members are appointed by the Minister responsible for the ABS so that a broad range of views and interests is reflected in the advice that ASAC offers to the Minister and the Statistician. Membership details are given on pages vi–viii.

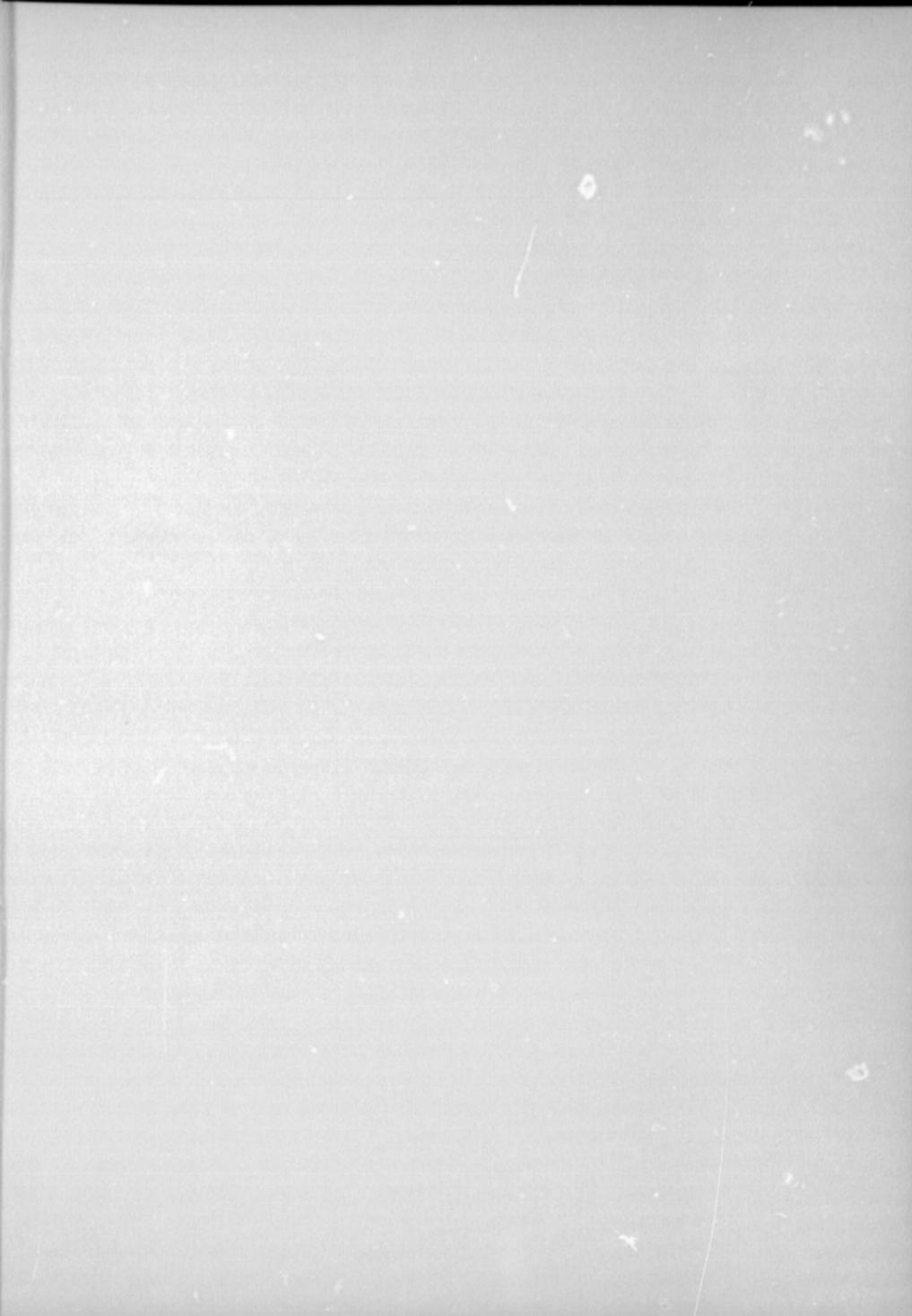
Persons or bodies outside the Commonwealth administration may participate in the Council's policy formulation by making representations to the Minister or the Chairman on matters of concern to them.

#### **Categories of documents**

The ASAC annual report, which is tabled in Parliament, is available from all ABS offices. Files are maintained which contain documents relating to the administration of the Council, papers discussed at Council meetings, summary records of proceedings of meetings and correspondence relating to the activities of the Council.

#### **FOI procedures and initial contact points**

All inquiries concerning access to documents, including inquiries under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, may be directed on weekdays, between 8.30am and 4.30pm, to the Secretary, Australian Statistics Advisory Council, c/- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cameron Offices, Belconnen, ACT 2617 – telephone (06) 252 5760.





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